

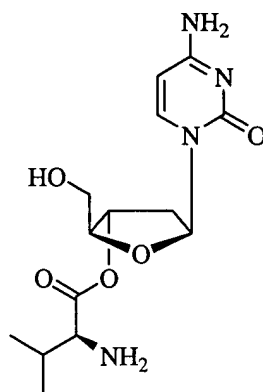
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-155 (cancelled)

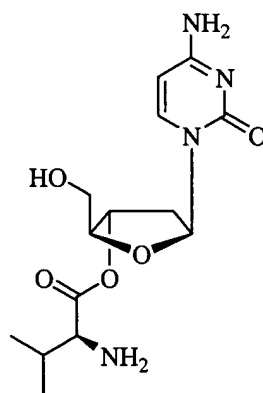
Claim 156 (currently amended): A compound of the formula



or ~~a~~ its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 157-162 (cancelled)

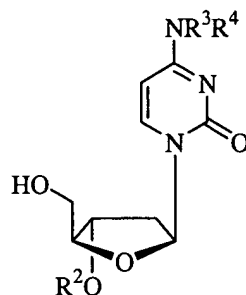
Claim 163 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula



or ~~a~~ its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with  $\beta$ -L-deoxyribo-thymidine.

Claims 164-174 (cancelled)

Claim 175 (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



or ~~a~~ its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

~~R² is selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, an amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug; and~~

R³ and R⁴ are independently H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, dialkylaminoalkylene, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug.

Claim 176 (cancelled)

Claim 177 (cancelled)

Claim 178 (cancelled)

Claim 179 (currently amended): The compound of claim 175, wherein R² is an amino acid residue of the formula C(O)C(R⁸)(R⁹)(NR¹⁰R¹¹), wherein

R⁸ is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein R⁸ can optionally be attached to R¹⁰ to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R⁸ is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle ~~heterocyclic moiety~~;

R⁹ is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

Claim 180 (previously presented): The compound of claim 179, wherein R² is L-valinyl.

Claim 181 (previously presented): The compound of claim 175, wherein R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen.

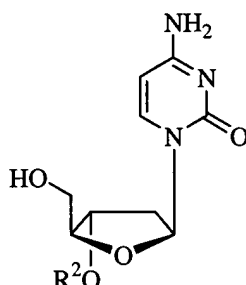
Claim 182 (previously presented): The compound of claim 175, wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen and  $R^4$  is dimethylaminomethylene.

Claim 183 (previously presented): The compound of claim 175, wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen and  $R^4$  is CO-alkyl.

Claim 184 (previously presented): The compound of claim 175, wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen and  $R^4$  is CO-methyl.

Claim 185 (previously presented): The compound of claim 175, wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen and  $R^4$  is L-valinyl.

Claim 186 (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



or ~~a~~ its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

$R^2$  is ~~selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, an amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug.~~

Claim 187 (cancelled)

Claim 188 (cancelled)

Claim 189 (cancelled)

Claim 190 (currently amended): The compound of claim 186, wherein  $R^2$  is an amino acid residue of the formula  $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$ , wherein

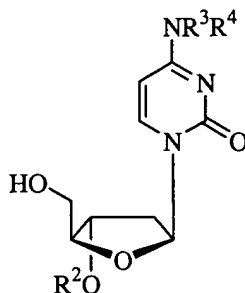
$R^8$  is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein  $R^8$  can optionally be attached to  $R^{10}$  to form a ring structure; or alternatively,  $R^8$  is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle ~~heterocyclic moiety~~;

$R^9$  is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

$R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

Claim 191 (previously presented): The compound of claim 190, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is L-valinyl.

Claim 192 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective anti-HBV amount of a compound of the formula:



or a its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R<sup>2</sup> is ~~selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, an~~ amino acid residue, ~~mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug; and~~

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are independently H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, dialkylaminoalkylene (in particular, dimethylaminomethylene), CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug; with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 193 (cancelled)

Claim 194 (cancelled)

Claim 195 (cancelled)

Claim 196 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is an amino acid residue of the formula C(O)C(R<sup>8</sup>)(R<sup>9</sup>)(NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>), wherein R<sup>8</sup> is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein R<sup>8</sup> can optionally be attached to R<sup>10</sup> to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R<sup>8</sup> is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle heterocyclic moiety;

R<sup>9</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

Claim 197 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 196, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is L-valinyl.

Claim 198 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are hydrogen.

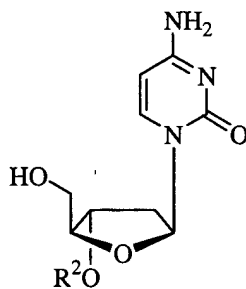
Claim 199 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>4</sup> is dimethylaminomethylene.

Claim 200 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>4</sup> is CO-alkyl.

Claim 201 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>4</sup> is CO-methyl.

Claim 202 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>4</sup> is L-valinyl.

Claim 203 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective anti-HBV amount of a compound of the formula:



or a its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

~~R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, an amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug;~~

with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 204 (cancelled)

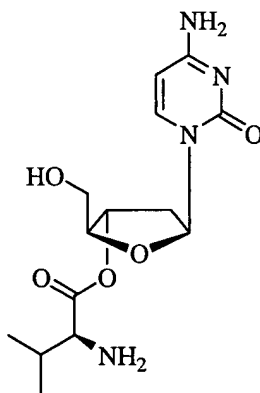
Claim 205 (cancelled)

Claim 206 (cancelled)

Claim 207 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 203, wherein  $R^2$  is an amino acid residue of the formula  $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$ , wherein  $R^8$  is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein, ~~as in proline~~,  $R^8$  can optionally be attached to  $R^{10}$  to form a ring structure; or alternatively,  $R^8$  is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle ~~heterocyclic moiety~~;  
 $R^9$  is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and  
 $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

Claim 208 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 207, wherein  $R^2$  is L-valinyl.

Claim 209 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula



or a its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 210-241 (cancelled)